Starting from the frequent Nobel Prize winners at the University of California

In recent years, whenever the Nobel Prize is announced, the media has inevitably had a small commotion. There is no suspense about who won the science award, but the familiar letter combination on the list - UC - is more and more like a cultural symbol. These news have caused a lot of shock in the Chinese media, especially the mainland network.

Berkeley, Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Irvine, San Diego... Almost every year, someone always holds back the medal in the University of California system. Some people joked, "The Nobel Prize is the annual routine of the University of California." Although this is exaggerated, it is not completely groundless.

The University of California system broke the record in 2025, and many faculty members and alumni on campus won five Nobel Prizes in medicine, physics and chemistry. For example, John Clarke of UC Berkely and Michel H. of Santa Barbara Devoret and John M. Martinis won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his breakthrough in quantum physics; Omar Yaghi of Berkeley won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his contribution to the research and development of metal organic frameworks.

The other two private schools in California, Stenford and Caltech, were established later than Berkeley. Together with UCLA, these two schools have long become strong rivals for Berkeley, surpassing California, the oldest institution in many aspects.

There are thousands of universities around the world. It seems that most of the awards in recent years have been concentrated in the western United States. Is it a coincidence or a rule? The discussion on social

media is in full swing, which is nothing more than some clichés: such as California is rich, economically developed, advanced in science and technology, unique geographically located, and so on.

Sunshine and free soil

The joint role of the above factors cannot be denied. But compared with the academically powerful eastern region, the oldest Berkeley (1868) has only completed a century and a half of journey. Harvard University was founded in 1636. It was the great-great-grandfather of Berkeley. He was strong and naturally ranked first in the total number of Nobel Prizes in the United States (since 1901), followed by Berkeley.

In the campus of California, sunshine, beach and laboratory coexist. The students put on slippers into the classroom, and the professor rode a bicycle to the office. It seems to be casual, but it is actually an invisible order - the tension brought by freedom.

This kind of tension is precisely the source of scientific research. You can question the professor, challenge the frontier hypothesis, or discuss God's particles in the cafe. No one laughs at you for being "wimsical", because innovation is a by-product of whimsicalness.

Over time, the "standard" was drowned by the spark of innovation, and the score of "assessment" turned into academic enthusiasm.

Cultural password outside the system

Some people say that the United States wins in the system. In fact, it's not like that. The system is just a shell, and the real driving force lies in culture.

The spirit of the west coast is completely different from that of the east coast. The East Coast talks about tradition and bloodline, often with a gentleman's style; while California is the utopia of the escapitives. From gold diggers, hippies to Silicon Valley entrepreneurs, every generation is challenging the old order.

This spirit or culture has penetrated into many fields such as academics, education and innovative enterprises.

Compared with the Old Continent and the East, there is innovative air and soil here. No one cares about your prominent family, and no one really

cares about your brilliant education and resume, or which powerful country you come from. Everyone soars freely in the sun, which is the frontier of the spirit of the Western Pioneers.

Scientists are not "institutional people", but "explorers"; professors do not rely on "senior qualifications", but on "shent of thought". In such a cultural atmosphere, awards naturally become by-products, not purposes.

The revelation of Britain, Japan and Israel

Britain pioneered the trend of modern education and science and technology, and her Cambridge and Oxford universities both ranked among the top in the number of Nobel Prize winners. However, their trend is like the East Coast of the United States, with similar and different reasons, and no longer unfolding.

Japan belongs to the Confucian cultural circle of East Asia. Compared with the great powers of the East, it must make many people uncomfortable. After World War II, under the occupation of the U.S. military, it seemed so unfree. However, her passport freedom leads the world, and she has been heard of winning the Nobel Prize from time to time. In 2025 this year, another one appeared, and she envied the message on the Little Red Book.

Someone desperately told you that Japan is the xx of the United States. What's wrong with it? Today's Japan is respected by the world, and it has also become the first choice for immigrants from major eastern countries. It seems that there are many smart Chinese people. Those big talk or political terms are said to others.

Look at Israel again. This place of bullets should be the first in the world in terms of the proportion of Nobel Prize winners per capita. Maybe someone will immediately think of the wisdom of the Jews. It is difficult

to deny such a perception. Who can prove that they are not God's chosen people?

Some people may think that Israel is a country with strict religious rules. But in Jewish society and family, children are trained from an inyal to have an independent thinking spirit and dare to challenge authority and tradition. This may be the real answer to the wisdom and talent of Jews.

There are also many small and medium-sized countries on the statistical list of Nobel Prize winners, which makes those eastern powers feel sorry for it?

The fantasy of the Chinese dream

There are many options for evaluating the criteria of universities. However, as a hard indicator for evaluating education, scientific research and innovation, the number of Nobel Prizes is undoubtedly one of the relatively objective indicators.

Many articles can be published, doctoral professors can be made in batches, imitations can also be sold in batches, and news can be announced every day, but the launch of original results that can stand the test of time is the hardcore product that universities have won honors.

In a major country in the East, if you win the Nobel Prize, it is undoubtedly "prosperous, powerful, rising, rising in the east and falling in the west..." The excellent annotation of etc. can even be attributed to the greatness of the organization and leaders.

Like football, the myth of the superiority of the socialist system to do great things collectively has been greatly beaten in the face over the years on the issue of the Nobel Prize, making many people restless.

Some people interpret it as all Western prejudices. Why don't you get an XX award by yourself and win a powerful "right to speak"?

The Nobel Prize has become one of the curses of the great powers of the East for decades.

Compared with the simplicity and rusticity of Berkeley or California Institute of Technology, some famous schools in the East are lined with high-rise buildings, strict systems, and towering gates.

Here, the scientific research conference becomes a briefing, the results become "indicators", and the discussion is cautious. What young scholars fear most is not failure, but "unqualified". So everyone diligently repeated, plagiarized and even stole within the qualified range.

The boundary between academics and power in the East is often blurred. The number of papers has become a political achievement, and the review meeting has become a trading field.

So we saw that on the one hand, the laboratory in California was brightly lit in the early morning, and on the other hand, a scientific research team somewhere was designing a roadmap for the "award-winning".

Some people do research, and some people do scripts. There are more people who are thinking about speculation, pleasing people, and making the culture of shoe polishing and flattery popular. Most of the authors who can publish in famous publications are driven by the hidden rules of the game.

Under the totalitarian system, the layers of pressure, the only remaining curiosity and primitive innovative impulse of young people have been worn out long ago.

In the United States, a student can openly deny the tutor's theory, and the tutor may smile and say, "Very, then you prove it to me." Most American teachers don't show that they know everything. When I don't know, I will say directly, "I don't know."

In China, if a student questions the teacher in class, he may be reminded: "Pay attention to your attitude." Most Chinese teachers will not make students feel that they have a problem they don't know. They would rather talk nonsense than bear it when students question their knowledge and ability.

There are exceptions in the new era. Students can question or report their classmates or teachers, which is when they are not in harmony with political slogans.

Chinese students and parents work harder and are more diligent than people anywhere in the world. They all know how to go to famous schools and seek authority. But most of them refuse to be lax in the free will of students, because the score and the brand are the most important.

The frequent award of the University of California is actually a signal of civilization. It shows society's trust in freedom of thought. And when a society only rewards the "correct answer of safety", it is impossible to give birth to "dangerous geniuses".

The echo of history

China is an ancient country that attaches importance to education and respects knowledge. However, traditional Chinese culture does not encourage or oppose "out of the ordinary" and does not abide by the "X way". Any innovative or novelty is not as good as the braids of the ancestors. It was only in modern times that it had slightly improved, but it also paid more attention to the outer fur and gorgeous furnishings.

Human curiosity and will to explore are engraved in the DNA, and the Chinese will be no exception. After thousands of years of careful research and collision, the rulers have summarized a large number of traditional rules to regulate the people, such as shoe polishing culture, Sandezi culture or dog culture, etc., which suffocated the innate spiritual

free will of the Chinese people.

Since 1949, Chinese students or cultured people have been struggling in the sea of suffering. You must admit that the weight of power, money and status in today's society is far higher than the preaching of Confucius and Mencius. The latter is just a cover-up, and the propaganda of the ideology is the king's way. Therefore, there are hundreds of Marxist-Lenininist colleges and thousands of party schools in China. They train robots that are obedient, absolutely obedient and have installed fixed programs, not engineers who create machines.

From the theory of the uselessness of reading to the pursuit of Mao's thought and the current Xi thought. There was only a buffer period of more than 30 years in the middle. Fortunately, a group of people with independent ideas came out. And most of them are overseas, and they have become pioneers in various fields. This shows that innovation is not a problem of IQ for x groups.

Nowadays, the traces of the Internet have been eliminated on a large scale, the network has been blocked and banned, and the brain partyization, and integration have become a trend again. This group of people who are recognized or self-deemed as the smartest want to be unified under the will of the "smartest" leader's brain.

This is a human wonder that has been staged since the Internet era.

Differences between China and the United States: the fault of thought and trust

Science is not the product of the logical system, but an extension of the cultural climate. Trust, tolerance and doubt - these three constitute the triangle of innovation. One is indispensable.

The glory of the University of California also has another side. The price

of freedom is loneliness, and the price of thought is being misunderstood. Many winners were not rich in their later years, and they were even marginalized by their own institutions.

But what they left behind was the fire of civilization.

This kind of fire does not belong to the country or the regime. It belongs to those who are willing to light up at night and think alone.

The Nobel Prize is not the end, but a mirror. It reflects the respect of one civilization for thought, and also reflects the anxiety of another civilization.

When we envy the glory of the University of California, we should reflect on it:

Why is there no air of free debate in some classrooms?
Why must scientific research be "obedient" first?
Why does every "Innovation Conference" end with "Commendation for Advanced"?

Perhaps, the real gap is not in the laboratory, but in the depths of the heart.

The University of California is not a paradise. The disadvantages seen in other places are all here. Even facing the test of free cheating for a long time, the penetration of false slogans of excessive DEI is also common in newspapers. But the liberal culture of the subject prevails, and common sense and reason are always the mainstream consciousness here.

When the sun shone on the morning fog of Berkeley Hill again, the young scholar pushed open the door of the laboratory. He didn't know whether he would win the prize, but he was sure--

The price of freedom

Without the air and soil of freedom of thought, the spiritual search is mistaken for a strong desire or greed. In the end, it can only be a flower in the mirror and the moon in the water. No matter how mainland social media hyped the University of California or the Nobel Prize, almost no one dares to involve the fundamental intrinsic factors of the award. When the freedom of speech becomes a luxury or contraband, this society will be abandoned by human civilization. Talking about innovation or development is undoubtedly a fool's dream talk.

Obedience to the freedom in the soul is to seize the grand prize in the cage. This is not only an individual choice, but also a watershed for the rise and fall of the nation.

全球大学诺贝尔奖获得者排名 (包括毕业校友及教职员工)		
1	哈佛大学	173
2	剑桥大学	124
3	加州大学伯克利分校	121
4	芝加哥大学	106
5	麻省理工学院	104
6	哥伦比亚大学	102
7	斯坦福大学	88
8	加州理工学院	80
9	普林斯顿大学	78
10	牛津大学	73

11	耶鲁大学	69
12	康奈尔大学	64
13	柏林洪堡大学	57
14	巴黎大学	51
15	哥廷根大学	45
16	慕尼黑大学	43
17	哥本哈根大学	40
18	约翰·霍普金斯大学	39
19	洛克菲勒大学	38
20	纽约大学	38

世界各国诺贝尔奖获得人数排行

排行	国家	人数
01	美国	400
02	英国	138
03	德国	111
04	法国	70
05	俄罗斯	32

排行	国家	人数
16	以色列	13
17	挪威	13
18	澳大利亚	13
19	印度	12
20	比利时	11

06	瑞典	32
07	日本	29
08	加拿大	28
09	瑞士	27
10	奥地利	22
11	荷兰	21
12	意大利	21
13	波兰	19
14	丹麦	13
15	匈牙利	13

21	爱尔兰	11
22	南非	11
23	西班牙	8
24	捷克	6
25	乌克兰	6
26	阿根廷	5
27	芬兰	5
28	罗马尼亚	5
29	埃及	4
30	中国	2